

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OES-03 NASA-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /074 W

----- 015580

R 220115Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6025

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8308

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH US UR

SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S DAILY ON US-USSR SPACE FLIGHT

SUMMARY: PEOPLE'S DAILY HAS CONDEMNED HEAVY SOVIET EXPENDITURES ON SPACE EXPLORTAION WHILE STILL FAILING TO TAKE NOTE OF THE JOINT US-USSR SPACE FLIGHT. THE JULY 20 ARTICLE SOUNDS LIKE SOUR GRAPES OVER THE LATEST(AND VERY VISIBLE) US-USSR DETENTE STEP AND, FOR THE CHINESE AUDIENCE, THE PRC APPEARS TO BE MAKING THE POINT THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT IS MORE CONCERNED WITH BETTERING THE LIVES OF ITS PEOPLE. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE CONTINUING THE PRC MEDIA'S SELF-IMPOSED SILENCE ON THE CURRENT JOINT US-USSR SPACE FLIHT, PEOPLE'S DAILY JULY 20 CONDEMS THE SUPERPOWERS FOR SPREADING THEIR COMPETITION FROM EARTH TO SPACE. BOTH SUPERPOWERS ARE CONDEMNED FOR USING THEIR SPACE SATELLITES FOR MILITARY AND SPY PURPOSES, WITH THE SOVIETS RECIEVING THE MASSIVE SHARE OF ATTENTION.

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2. THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF THE ARTICLE, HOWEVER IS THE SOVIET'S HEAVY EXPENDITURES ON SPACE EXPLORATION AND THE CLAIM THAT THESE EXPENDITURES HAVE ADDED TO THE HARDSHIP OF THE WORKING SOVIET MASSES. WHATEVER BENIFITS MIGHT BE GAINED FROM THE SOVIET SPACE PROGRAM, THE ARTICLE MAINTAINS, ARE USED FOR "EXPLORATION AND OPPRESSION AT HOME AND CONTENTION FOR HEGEMONY EITH US IMPERIALISM ABORAD". IN COMPARISON WITH THE ENORMOUS SPACE EXPENDITIURES, SOVIET INDUS-TRIAL EQUIPMENT IS "OBSOLETE" AND TECHNOLOGY IS "BACKWARDS".

3. DESPITE THE OBVIOUS LINKAGE OF THIS ARTICLE TO THE CUR-RENT JOINT US-USSR SPACE FLIGHT, THE ARTICLE DOES NOT MENTION THE FLIGHT. THE SUPERPOWER CONTENTION THEME OF THE ARTICLE FOLLOWS THE ARGUMENT CARRIED BY THE PRC-OWNED HONG KONG PRESS DURING FLIGHT IS JUST A COVER-UP FOR THE REAL LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE FOR WORLD HEGEMONY BEING CARRIED OUT ON EARTH BY THE SUPERPOSERS. AS AN EXPAMPLE THE HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO POINTED OUT THAT THE ASTRONAUTS EXCHANGED HANDSHAKES AT A SPOT ABOVE PORTUGAL, WHICH IS A "HOT POINT OF CONTENTION".

4. THE ONLY MENTION THE PRC MEDIA HAS MADE OF THE FLIGHT HAS BEEN THE LAST LINE OF AN NCNA JULY 20 ITEM ON THE JULY UNCTAD CONFERENCE IN GENEVA IN WHICH A SUDANESE REPRESENTATIVE IS QUOTED AS COMMENTING "THE EMBRACE OF THE TWO SUPERPOWERS IN SPACE DOES NOT HAVE ENEN THE LEAST SIGNAFICANCE TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED NATIONS".

5. THE PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE SOUNDS VERY MUCH LIKE A CASE OF SOUR GRAPES OVER THE LATEST SPECTACULAR IN US-USSR DENTENTE. BY NOT REPORTING THE JOINT SPACE FLIGHT, THE PRC MEDIA HAVE ELIMINATED THE NECESSITY OF DISCUSSING US-USSR COOPERATION. IN REPORTING THE "SPY SATELLITES", THE ARTICLE'S ATTENTION IS FOCUSSED ON SOVIET SPYING ON THE US, NOT ON EUROPE CHINA, OR THE REST OF THE WORLD THEREBY EMPASIZING CONTINU-ING US-SOVIET MUTUAL MISTRUST. FOR THE DOMESTIC AUDIENCE , THE MESSAGE IS THAT SCIENCE SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THE MASSES--THUS, CHINA IS DEVOTING ITS RESOURCES TO BETTERMENT OF THE LIVES OF ITS PEOPLE WHILE THE SOVIETS CONCENTRATE ON CONFIDENTIAL

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AGGRESSIVE, MILITARY DESIGNS ON THE WORLD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, APOLLO-SOYUZ
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK08308
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750252-0075
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750734/aaaabeqb.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PEOPLE'S DAILY ON US-USSR SPACE FLIGHT SUMMARY: PEOPLE'S DAILY HAS CONDEMNED HEAVY SOVIET EXPEN-
TAGS: PFOR, TSPA, CH, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006